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NPIC/TSSG/RED/RSB-52-70  
13 May 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on 5-6 May 1970

1. The purpose of the meetings were fourfold:
  - a. To meet the new personalities in charge of the drone systems and those in [ ] laboratory.
  - b. To review the analysis undergone with the 147 camera system by [ ] lab.
  - c. To be briefed on Recon Central bibliography and abstract retrieval system.
  - d. To be briefed on project [ ]

2. The SPO of the [ ] 147 and 154 drone systems is now Col. [ ] (ASRD). He queried NPIC attendees about the quality of photography that NPIC is receiving from the 147 program. We discussed the anomalies in detail with the persons present and answered all their questions. [ ] made a significant statement at the conclusion of the meeting; i.e., that the purpose of the drones is to obtain photography that meets intelligence requirements and not just to be flown and recovered. He has heard complaints about the product and is determined to find out what is wrong and to go into an improvement program.

He was made aware of SO-242, and the important role that CD photography is playing in the Far East, and that the use of these materials should be an important consideration in the development of future drone camera systems. [ ] was invited to visit NPIC which he promised to do. Appropriate NPIC and DIAAX-4 personnel have been alerted.

3. Two recent test flights of the 147 drone system have been flown over White Sands, and a nose cone of a drone with camera has been tested in the environmental test chamber at [ ] laboratory. The results from the test chamber (dynamic analyzer) and T/M apparently proved that the system is meeting specifications; i.e., the following tests (with shutter speeds of 1/1000 and 1/500) introduced no appreciable image degradation:

DECLASS REVIEW by NGA/DOD

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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- a. Air pressure focus tests.
- b. Shutter speed evaluations.
- c. Vibrations.
- d. Pitch and roll smear analysis.
- e. Thermal focus changes.
- f. Weather analysis.

Remaining to be done are tests for condensation on the window and investigation of processing at the 67 RECCE. It was agreed by all attending that the system is outdated and must undergo a modernization program if films similar to SO-3404, SO-242 and improved SO-180 are to be used. The system may well be performing as well as can be expected with the current lens/film combination.

4. The group that had assembled to review the results of the test of the 147 drone, HR 338 camera in the dynamic analyzer, was made-up of representatives of the camera manufacturer, the drone manufacturer, the Air Force SPO, the [ ] Lab, and the NPIC contingent. Except for the NPIC representatives, only one member of the group had ever seen operational photography from the 147 drone system. We, therefore, agreed that to make an intelligent assessment of the quality of the photography being provided by the operational system relative to its potential, it would be most beneficial to reconvene the group following an operational mission to evaluate the product first-hand. The group further agreed that such a meeting could best be conducted at NPIC because of original negative film availability, available user response, and the existing NPIC camera system evaluation expertise.

The NPIC contingent informed the SPO that arrangements for such a gathering would have to be requested through appropriate DIA channels. 11

5. The bibliography and abstract document retrieval system was quite impressive. We asked for bibliographies on "Free Radical", "Laser and Reconnaissance", and "Image Enhancement Techniques." The Free Radical bibliography was loaned to [ ] of RED/ATB for review and to check for thoroughness. He has ordered eight additional bibliographies on a variety of subjects as of this writing, and [ ] has ordered 25 abstracts pertinent to Laser/Reconnaissance, plus other bibliographies. For further information on how the system works, please contact the undersigned.

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25X1 6. [ ] had never seen  
the ink spray of project [ ] before, and they  
25X1 were predictably impressed. There have been significant improvements  
25X1 in the efficiency and operation of the system. [ ] stated  
that three [ ] had been sold; two to Westover, and one other that  
he would not talk about.

25X1 7. [ ] stated that a drone review and improve-  
ment symposium was to be held in Los Angeles on 19-21 May 1970 and  
would forward a cable to NPIC if NPIC representation is required.

25X1 8. [ ] was invited to visit NPIC. [ ]  
25X1 is the C.O. [ ] Arrangements for his visit have  
also been coordinated within NPIC and DIAXX-4.

[ ]  
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RED/TSSG/NPIC

[ ]  
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Distribution:

- ✓ 1 - NPIC/ODir
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